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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Bedrich MOLDAN (Czech Republic)

Chapter ___

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Ministers and the other participants at the high-level meeting of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development recognized the sense of urgency in the promoting of environmentally sound sustainable development through concrete actions by Governments and the international community in general. They emphasized the political importance of effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and of the implementation of the recommendations, decisions and commitments contained in its final documents, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.

2. They reconfirmed their commitment to the growing global partnership for sustainable development among nations, as well as among all parties involved in the transition to sustainability at the local, national, regional and international levels, and highlighted the need for further development of such partnerships as that upon which Agenda 21 had been built.

3. They emphasized the dynamic role of the Commission as a central political forum for the monitoring and review, in an integrated and coordinated manner, of the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In that connection, they stressed the need to provide further political impetus and shape to the activities of the Commission.

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4. The participants agreed that the overall progress achieved in the one year following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development remained limited, despite some developments at the national and international levels. They emphasized that much more had to be done to translate the commitments of the Conference into action.

5. They stressed the fact that the inadequacy of financial resources was a major constraint on effective implementation of Agenda 21, and emphasized the urgent need to support national efforts to achieve sustainable development in the developing countries with new and additional financial resources.

6. They highlighted the importance of collaboration in the area of the development, transfer of, access to and application of environmentally sound technologies, inter alia, with a view to enhancing the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Within this context they welcomed new initiatives by both developed and developing countries in that area and stressed the need for further concrete measures to operationalize relevant provisions of Agenda 21.

7. They urged that there be effective implementation of the recommendations set forth at the first session of the Commission, and invited the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to attach priority to their consideration of the report of the Commission on its first session at their respective forthcoming sessions.

8. The participants recognized the necessity for all Governments and international organizations, including multilateral financial institutions, as well as all other parties involved, to actively cooperate with the Commission, inter alia, by providing it with updated information on their activities and progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in the final documents of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In that respect, they looked forward to comprehensive reports of the Secretary-General providing a review and analysis of the information received.

9. They emphasized the importance of setting up national coordination and information-exchange mechanisms, as well as of elaborating national sustainable development plans and strategies, in particular with a view to integrating sustainable development considerations within decision-making processes. They highlighted the importance of including in those mechanisms, together with representatives of relevant ministries, representatives of local authorities, legislatures and the private sector, as well as of non-governmental organizations and of youth, women and other major groups.

10. They emphasized the importance of effective international solutions to pressing world issues related to critical elements of sustainability such as the need for a supportive economic environment, combating poverty, achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, and limiting demographic impacts on the life-supporting capacity of the planet.

11. They recognized the importance of making trade and environment mutually supportive, as well as of effectively addressing the debt issue.

12. They emphasized the fact that since the Commission was the appropriate intergovernmental forum for addressing issues related to unsustainable production and consumption patterns and lifestyles in their relation to sustainable development, it should take a leading role in that area.

13. They emphasized the need to ensure that the inter-sessional working groups of the Commission on issues related to finance and technology would contribute to adequate preparations for its next session.

14. They welcomed the intention expressed by a number of Governments to host meetings with a view to elaborating action-oriented inputs under specific thematic clusters of the Commission's multi-year programme of work, starting with issues such as health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and consumption and production patterns.

15. They invited the Bureau of the Commission and the Secretary-General to monitor the inter-sessional process with a view to enriching the deliberations at its next session.

16. Early efforts could be undertaken by the Commission for the implementation of the Forest Principles agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with a view to accelerating the process of sustainable development of forests, and thus preparing the ground for consideration of that issue by the Commission in 1995, as agreed in the multi-year thematic programme of work.

17. They reaffirmed the importance of the principles embodied in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and emphasized the need to promote broad dissemination of those principles at all levels with a view to promoting public awareness regarding sustainable development.

18. The participants welcomed the announcement by some countries regarding increased levels of assistance.

19. The participants also welcomed the inputs from the various non-governmental organizations, and their commitments to work in partnership with Governments in furthering the sustainable development process.